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KASCOE

Kansas Association of FSA County Office Employees

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September 12, 2005

Mr. Mike Johanns

USDA, Secretary of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Mr. Secretary, the Kansas Association of FSA County Office Employees (KASCOE) would like to thank you for visiting the Sunflower State and allowing its farmers and ranchers the opportunity to offer suggestions and ideas for the 2007 Farm Bill.

While simplicity and integrity are integral to the success of a new Farm Bill, KASCOE encourages Congress to allow farmers and ranchers to continue receiving the highest quality service possible from USDA. With a proven track record FSA has successfully delivered over 45 different programs, some of which include, commodity programs, conservation, price support, crop disaster and farm loans. Our successful adaptation to change is highly reflective of our "Can Do" attitude which is still practiced and relied upon, especially when unforeseen disasters require a quick response to our nation's producers.

The heart and soul of FSA is its county office committees which give local farmers a personal involvement in the administration of its farm programs at the grass-roots level. This system of electing county committee members is an exercise in democracy and should be retained in the next Farm Bill.

As modern technology continues to change our world, FSA has accepted this challenge making changes to service provided through the use of GIS/GPS technologies, and on-line business transactions. For rural America to advance with these technologies, it must be equipped with quality internet services that are not only faster, but affordable so producers can take full advantage of FSA's eGov and eFile initiatives. KASCOE suggests that the next Farm Bill allow FSA to also work with Homeland Security on emergency response & reporting uses of GIS/GPS, and implementation of a national animal ID program.

Finally, KASCOE simply seeks the opportunity to continue delivering quality products and services to this nation's farmers and ranchers through FSA which must be adequately staffed and fully funded.

Mr. Secretary, the employees of KASCOE and NASCOE (National Association of FSA County Office Employees) consider it an honor to serve the farmers and ranchers of the United States. We thank you for this consideration and allowing us to share this same desire of providing the safest and most economical resources that help feed and clothe the world.

Sincerely,

Darin N. Slack
KASCOE President

cc: Bill R. Fuller, Kansas FSA State Executive Director

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*Comments from
Farm Bill Forum
Kansas*

Sept 12, 2005